

REMARKS

Claim 57 has been amended to correct the preamble, such that it matches the preamble of claim 51, from which claim 57 depends. No new matter is introduced by this amendment.

At page 2 of the instant Office Action, the Examiner has required restriction among two groups of inventions, namely:

- I. a fastening element and method of using the same (claims 1-23, 25-26, 29-35, 37-48, 51 and 53-72); and
- II. a drill guide tool (claims 27, 28, 49 and 50).

Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement. Applicant believes that the subject matter of claims Groups I and II are so interrelated that a search and examination of the subject matter of those claims in the same application would not be burdensome, despite the subject matter being in various subclasses. Notwithstanding, Applicant elects the invention of Group I for prosecution on the merits.

The Examiner, at pages 2-3 of the instant Office Action, has further required election of species from among five species, namely:

- i. Figure 3;
- ii. Figure 7;
- iii. Figure 7A;
- iv. Figure 8; and
- v. Figure 9.

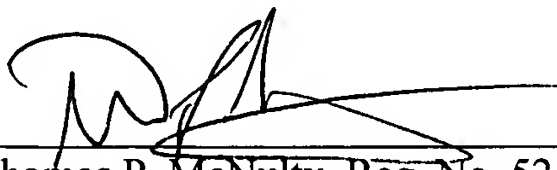
Applicant respectfully traverses the election of species requirement. Applicant believes that the fastening element of claim 34 and the method of claim 51 are generic to each of the species of Figures 3, 7, 7A, 8 and 9.

Notwithstanding, Applicant elects the species of Figure 8 for prosecution on the merits. The claims that are readable thereon are claims 34-35, 38-44, 51, 53-54 and 57-72.

No fee is due. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0733. If a telephone conversation with Applicant's attorney would expedite prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at (617) 720-9600.

Respectfully submitted,

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